



COMMAND DECISIONS

By Milton Viorer

✓ **TO MOVE A NATION:** The Politics of Foreign Policy in the Administration of John F. Kennedy. By Roger Hilsman. Illustrated. Doubleday. 602 pp. \$6.95.

✓ Roger Hilsman is no dove. He's a tough-minded intellectual who served under President Kennedy in high posts in the State Department. He admired Kennedy's diplomacy, not because Kennedy always made the right decisions but because he applied—except, perhaps, during the first Cuban crisis—rigorous intellectual processes to reach them. In this excellent book, Hilsman reviews critically the diplomatic policies in which he was himself involved. He writes with authority, offering fresh insights and information on crises ranging from Cuba to Malaysia. But the casual reader will be forgiven for skipping to the chapters on the crisis that really concerns us most. Hilsman never quarreled with the objective of defeating the Vietcong rebels. What horrifies him about the Vietnamese war is the sequence of mindless decisions, most of them taken since Kennedy's death, which seem not only to preclude suppression of the rebellion but have managed, at the same time, to alienate our allies, reduce to rubble an